California State University, Long Beach

DAILY 49ER

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY LONG BEACH, LIBRARY ARCHIVES

Ariana Sawyer | Daily 49er

Break the stigma, take the night

Students, faculty, staff and community members walk across campus together for Not Alone @ the Beach's Take Back the Night event April 20. The demonstrators chanted, "Break the silence, stop the violence," and hold signs that said, "Make love, not rape." Read more about the event on page 2.

Experience the culture

Tierra de Oro is an event that creates a space for students to experience Latino culture.

By Katherine Lemus
Staff Writer

As the music filled the room, people danced, ate and walked around to view art or drawings.

These are only a couple descriptions that can be used to describe the Tierra de Oro annual art show.

Tierra de Oro is an art show that is hosted by La Raza Student Association. The art show began yesterday from 5 - 9 p.m. in the University Student Union ballroom. It featured art from various artists on campus and community music, dancing, mariachi bands, Spanish rock bands and folklorico dance groups.

Tierra de Oro is an annual cultural event that has been continuing on for more than 30 years. It is open to the public and students.

This year, the theme for Tierra de Oro was music and bands. Three bands performed during the event with styles ranging from traditional Mexican music to Spanish rock and roll.

The Cal State University Long Beach Grupo Folklorico also performed for the audience.

A drawing station was also set up for students as a way for them to de-stress with finals coming soon along with a photo booth for those that wished to have their pictures taken.

According to Cindy Garcia, lead coordinator of Tierra de Oro and treasurer of La Raza says that the event is a great opportunity for underrepresented artists to showcase their artwork as well as sell their art.

"This event is also a great opportunity for the artists to get their name out there and further their business and art," Garcia said.

Tierra de Oro was an event that was primarily made for Latino students but has since grown to include everyone from different cultures.

Garcia also explained that is an event that helps everyone in the community.

"Not only are students invited, the members of the community are also invited to showcase their work," Garcia said. "Tierra de Oro

see **TIERRA**, page 5

ASI Senate votes to reorganize

Two elected executive positions will be eliminated and three appointed executive positions will be added.

By Valerie Osier
Assistant News Editor

Associated Students, Inc Senate voted Wednesday to reorganize the student government's executive positions by June 2017. The reorganization will eliminate two positions, add three new positions and redistribute the executives' workload.

The reorganization will eliminate the positions of chief programming officer and chief of staff. The CPO responsibilities will be reallocated to a new staff position filled by a student who will be paid hourly. The new position will be a supervisory role rather than a coordinating role.

Several of the current presidential cabinet positions will be rolled into three new executive positions: vice president of academic affairs, vice president of government affairs and vice president of university affairs. The current vice president position will be called the executive vice president and the treasurer will be the vice president of finance. These positions will be appointed by the president and a panel rather than elected to maintain unity with the "ideals of the president," according to Vice President Miriam Hernandez.

"Having elections for six executives

see **ASI**, page 3

News 2 | Arts & Life 4 | Opinions 6 | Sports 7

Crime Blotter

Harassment, stolen bicycle and drunk driving.

By Matthew Simon
Staff Writer

Harassment reported

A 23-year-old female reported that she was verbally harassed by an unknown individual on campus. She reported the incident on Monday at 6:34 p.m to the campus police. The University Police took a report of the incident, but don't have any description of the alleged assailant.

Suspected bike thief detained

Police arrested Darren John Bagely at a Beachside Residential College on Sunday at 1:22 p.m. Bagely was detained for being a suspect in recent bike thefts. He was seen observing the bike area. When he was detained by police he was found with bolt cutters and a hacksaw. Despite having the tools associated with bike theft, there was no evidence that he stole or attempted to steal any bikes.

Bagely, who is not a student, was released but was banned from coming onto campus for seven days. If the police catch him on campus any time this week until Sunday, he can be arrested for trespassing.

Bicycle stolen near library

A 24-year-old student reported that his bike was stolen on Saturday at 5:06 p.m. The bike is a gray Eastern bike with 24-inch rims. There was no monetary value associated with the bike.

Woman arrested for DUI

Officers arrested a 23-year-old female after making a traffic stop on Friday at 11:04 p.m. at the intersection of Atherton Street and Studebaker Road. The female was suspected to be in a hit-and-run and had a blown-out tire.

Daily 49er selects next editor-in-chief

By Greg Diaz
Editor-in-Chief

Junior journalism major and anthropology minor Micayla Vermeeren has been selected to be the next editor-in-chief for the Daily 49er.

Outgoing and strong-willed, Vermeeren will lead the student-run newspaper for the 2016-17 academic year.

"Just when you think you knew all about red lipstick and Morrissey, Miss Micayla Vermeeren dances into the room exclaiming about another hip band panel she visited," photo editor Trang Le said. "In truth, I have no knowledge about any of these topics, but when it comes to knowing Micayla, I know quite a bit. At first glance, the only thing you notice is her smile. Miss Vermeeren is always smiling and even when she's stressed out … It's what makes her, her though."

Facebook

Design editor Emilio Aldea describes Vermeeren as tenacious and hard nosed.

"She is an excellent writer and will do a fine job as the new EIC," Aldea added.

She lists creating stronger relationships with the campus community and building on the in-depth coverage of news events among her goals for next year.

"It is an absolute honor and one of the greatest things that could have happened to me," Vermeeren said. "A lot of great people have gotten me here, and a lot of great people will be coming along for the ride. It is going to be a great year for the paper."

Vermeeren is the current opinions editor for the paper and previously held the position of assistant news editor. She began as a staff writer for the Daily 49er in fall 2015. She has also been a member of the Delta Zeta sorority since her freshman year at Cal State Long Beach.

Vermeeren is currently accepting applications for next semester's Daily 49er staff. Applications can be picked up in the Daily 49er newsroom in Liberal Arts 4 room 201.

Advocates against sexual assault 'take back the night'

Students gathered for a rally to speak out against sexual assault and relationship violence.

By Erik Öhrström
Staff Writer

Students at Cal State Long Beach gathered for a rally Wednesday night in front of the Maxson Plaza fountain to advocate against relationship violence and sexual assault.

The rally was part of the Take Back the Night event, which was arranged by the Women's and Gender Equity Center as part of their "Not Alone @ The Beach" campaign for sexual assault awareness month. It was an opportunity for students to speak out and listen to other individuals that have been affected by relationship violence and sexual assault.

Coordinator at the Women's Gender and Equity Center Pam Rayburn took the lead of the speech and talked about the importance of helping sexual assault survivors on campus. She thinks it is important to change rape culture by making the conversations about sexual assault more open.

"In my generation we did not speak out," Rayburn said. "When things like this happened, you did not talk about it. Tonight we break that stigma and are able to have those conversations."

One of the invited guest speakers to the rally was program manager Mary Case at the Lesbian Gay Bi-sexual Transgender Queer Center of Long Beach. She represents one of the community partners that work with the campus to prevent sexual assault and encourages students who are victimized to reach out.

Trang Le | Daily 49er

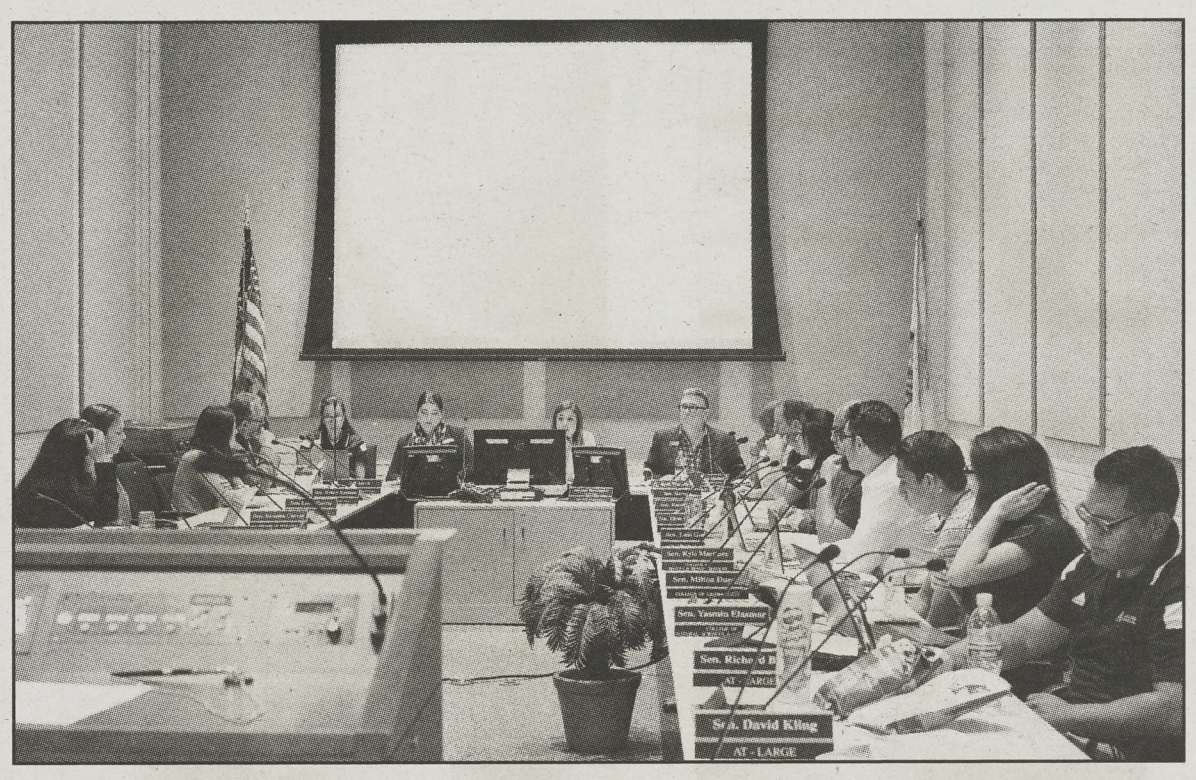
Pam Rayburn, member of Not Alone At the Beach speaks during "Break the Silence Day" to bring awareness about sexual assault prevention programs on campus.

"We know that sexual assault happens often, even so intimate partner violence," Case said. "We want you all to know that any of you can reach out, no matter what type, or side of the spectrum where you may feel that you are on."

The night's special guest speaker for the rally was assistant director Jonathan Higgins from the multicultural affairs department, who also is a lecturer in the Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies department. He talked specifically regarding violence and how it has affected the transgender community, especially trans women of color. He thinks that the change of transgender women's rights in certain states is a contributing factor to the ongoing transgender genocide. Last year, 25 transgender women of color were murdered and only three of them were given national media attention.

"It is time to understand that transgender genocide is happening and certain states have already begun to declare war on the endangered existence of this community." Higgins said.

After the messages of the guest speakers had been brought forward, the students gathered to carry out a march across the campus, which eventually would end up in the Beach Auditorium of the University Student Union building for an open speak-out session.



Claudia Bravo| Daily 49er

Members of ASI board meet at the USU Senate Chambers Wednesday.

ASI

continued from page 1

would be really difficult to have, especially right now," said Sen. and current ASI presidential candidate Marvin Flores at Wednesday's meeting. "And these positions themselves are very distinct from the treasurer, vice president and president in regards that they deal with student constituents with the university affairs, government affairs and [academic] affairs.

"So we have students going into it who don't really know what they're going to be doing for that position, it can be very difficult for them to actually transition from doing one thing to doing something else … When you appoint someone to these positions, they know what they'll be doing right off the bat instead of having to be trained for months on end."

The new executive positions will receive the same compensation package as the president, vice president and treasurer, which includes tuition reimbursement and a monthly cost of living stipend.

The decision to reorganize came in part because of the proposal to change the executive pay policy from a "fellowship" to a "scholarship" to allow any student, regardless of citizenship status to be paid for their jobs in ASI, Hernandez said.

"When the conversation started about the payments for executives, we had to go back and see how much of a workload were the executives doing," Hernandez said. "A lot of people were asking us, 'Wow, you all get paid so much money. What do you do?' So we sat down, the executive team, we essentially wrote down all the committees and different things that we do and then we realized that I sit on 18 committees and Jose sits on 23 and Wendy sits on 17. So we're pulled in different directions."

The idea of the reorganization is to "improve shared governance and student advocacy," according to Hernandez.

In addition to the reorganization proposal, the Senate passed the second reading of the amendment to change the compensation of all ASI student officers from fellowships and stipends to scholarships. The third and final reading is set for the April 27 Senate meeting.

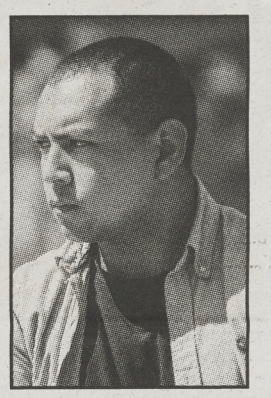
Acevedo disqualified, runoff candidates announced

The ASI judiciary panel ruled on the executive elections appeal.

By Ariana Sawyer
News Editor

The Associated Students, Inc. Board of Elections announced Marvin Flores and Robert Espinosa will face off in the ASI presidential runoff election next week.

The announcement came after the ASI Judiciary ruled in favor of the Board of Elections, officially disqualifying Oscar Acevedo Tuesday morning.



Oscar Acevedo

Acevedo, who would have been in second place with 1,066 votes, had appealed the March 23 disqualification after Flores, a current ASI senator-at-large, filed a complaint on March 22 against Acevedo for his campaigning techniques.

Flores came out in the lead with 1,636 votes and Espinosa in third by a large margin or 743 votes. Since none of the candidates had a majority of the votes, a runoff was necessitated.

During the original election, Acevedo's campaign was witnessed coercing students to vote for him.

The meeting minutes from March 22 state that Bhuta received an email from a student who requested her vote for Acevedo not be counted. The email said the voter felt forced to vote for Acevedo and his running mate.

Bhuta said she had a witness who saw Acevedo and his campaign workers instructing people on how to vote on their phones and where they could find his name on the ballot.

The runoff elections will take place from April 25-27. Students can vote by following the link sent to their email by ASI.

EXTRA! EXTRA!

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Daily 49er

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Submit resume and completed application* to Micayla Vermeeren by

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**Applications are available in the Daily 49er newsroom, LA-4 201-F.*

TIERRA

continued from page 1

was created to serve the community and students."

Most of the art that was showcased reflect the Latino identity and culture such as paintings of Frida, Che Guevara and the Virgin Mary.

Artist Karla Camacho has been showcasing her work at the Tierra de Oro event for 3 years.

Her art reflects her Latina identity through a variety of mediums of art such as paintings, sketches and pottery.

"I've done my own version of Dia de Los Muertos catrinas, images of a female skeleton dressed in ," Camacho said. "I've also created new images for the loteria game, specifically images that show people with darker skin and curvier since most of the images in the game are white and skinny."

Fundraiser officer of La Raza and senior sociology student Norberto Lopez says that not only is the event great for local community artists but for the student body on campus as well.

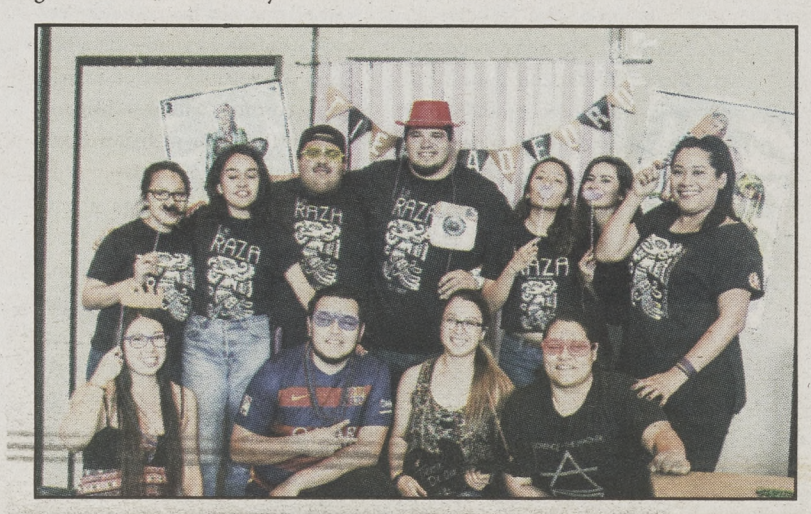
"The event allows the students to join in and experience Latino culture, learn about the Latino culture through our music and art," Lopez said.

Tierra de Oro is also a way for La Raza to fundraise for future events as well.

"The most important thing about this event that I want students to know is to come and enjoy the art and experience the culture," Lopez said.

La Raza Student Association hosts a variety of events throughout the year.

They will be hosting another event on April 26 at 6 p.m. at the University Student Union Auditorium. They will be screening "Mendez V. Westminster: Para Todos Los Niños" along with an Q&A with the director of the film, Sandra Robbie.



Terrah Starling | Daily 49er

Bottom left, La Raza Student Association pose for a photo at their Tierra De Oro event Wednesday.
Center, Artwork by Ninoska Art is displayed at the Tierra De Oro event hosted by the La Raza Student Association.
Top right, Melissa Tercero serves rice at the Tierra De Oro art event hosted by the La Raza Student Association.

High school students share their 'Artful Healing'

MOLAA hosts a gallery curated entirely by high school students as an interactive project with the community.

By Taryn Sauer
Staff Writer

The Museum of Latin American Art just launched an exhibition entitled "Artful Healing," composed of community artwork curated by high school students.

Located in the Port of Learning Gallery, the exhibit hosts work from a wide range of artists with various backgrounds, ages and abilities.

Alongside MOLAA's Education Programs Coordinator, Nalini Elias, and Curator of Education, Gabriela Martinez, high school students Keila Rivera, Valerie Duarte, Stephanie Hernandez, Sebastian Castle and Crispin Jay Salapare hand selected each piece from over one hundred submissions.

Upon their first draft of the setup, the students said they realized they had thought too broadly.

"We had to literally go back to the drawing board," said Rivera, an 18-year-old Wilson High School senior. "We drew out a tree map of what healing meant to us and focused on how the piece related back to the artist."

The exhibition is composed of paintings, sculptures, photography and multimedia that touch upon different aspects of the healing process. Some serve as a snapshot of a striking moment that caused the artist pain; others portray the process of coping through the creative process.

The curators also created several interactive spaces, including a "healing tree" that allows the viewer to write how they heal on a leaf and tape it onto a branch alongside other leaves with healing inscriptions.

Stephanie Hernandez, an 18-year-old Lincoln High School senior and fellow curator, said healing from the artist's' perspective was important.

"But [it is] also how the viewer can heal from these pieces in either the aesthetic or the artist's story, and just knowing you're not alone," she said.

They each said how important the community was in their efforts to create this interactive space. They said they wanted to highlight voices that would not otherwise be given space to be seen.

Nick McNamara | Daily 49er

Soy Quién Soy is a mixed media sculpture by Silvya E. Luna Manquero prominently featured in the Artful Healing exhibit in downtown Long Beach, California. The piece consists of a self-portrait, portraits she drew to cope with her mother's death and a life-sized effigy of her current self.

Keila said her favorite piece was by Dennis Lauterwasser, an artist with the Arts Association for the Disabled of Long Beach. His painting, entitled, "Today is a circle, All the days Are," is filled with tufts of rainbow colors. Keila said his story and painting amaze her.

"Art for him is a form of therapy, including physical therapy," she said. "He has limited mobility and he paints every day. He's very spirited."

The young curators said they all had ties to the artwork in different ways and that participating in the development of the exhibition has given them a new perspective on the creative process. They collaborated on the curation as a group, learning from each other and sometimes coming into MOLAA at eight o'clock in the morning and not leaving until six o'clock at night.

"There is so much more to consider than just your own opinion," Valerie Duarte, 17, from Harbor Teacher Prep Academy, said. "Working with others, it makes a big difference."

The young interns worked on the exhibition while juggling high school classes and other community projects.

Stephanie said that a lot of people have been astonished when they realize high school students organized such an event.

"It's kind of like they're questioning our abilities," she said, "but then again, what we are doing is extraordinary and revolutionary."

The exhibition encompasses the themes of understanding, process, connections and growth. It will be on view through May 29.

From Mindanao to CSULB with Love

Event to raise awareness of "Lumad" displacement.

By Jorge Paniagua
Staff Writer

An indigenous people under attack in Mindanao, Philippines – the Lumad face displacement and death as their community is ravaged by government forces and anti-communist paramilitary groups.

On Saturday, Lumad leaders, along with various cultural groups, will join the Long Beach community in a presentation titled "To Mindanao with Love," which will take place on the Cal State Long Beach campus at Lecture Hall 150.

Indigenous people from Mindanao will gather for a night of performances aimed to raise awareness of the Lumad people and the dangers they face living in the southern Philippines.

The event will open with a Lumad ritual leading into cultural presentations followed by performances from Long Beach-based band, "Bootleg Orchestra" and a hip-hop performance from Long Beach community members.

The program, hosted by the International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines and the CSULB Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, will also screen clips from "Pangandoy: The Manobo Fight for Land, Education, and Their Future," a film about schools built by the Lumad themselves.

"These indigenous schools teach the Lumad children about their history, culture, and their ancestral land," said Hiyasmin Saturay, the director of "Pangandoy." "The government hasn't provided education to these remote communities and it is rare to find schools that genuinely serve the community's needs, and yet they are being attacked by the government's military."

Government military groups consistently ravaged Lumad communities in 2015 by killing members of the Lumad community and terrorizing their homes and schools.

On Sept. 1, 2015, at least 2,000 residents from the village of Diatagon in Lianga, Surigao del Sur, were displaced after a group of paramilitary killed Emerico Samarca.

Samarca was the executive director of the Alternative Learning Center for Agricultural and Livelihood Development, according to news network Rappler.

> "The Lumad are constantly in danger of being displaced by military forces and we know the it is our tax dollars that help push out indigenous communities from their ancestral land."
>
> *- Johnny Rodriguez, secretary general of the political organization Anakbayan Long Beach*

ALCADEV is a privately operated learning institution that provides basic education to Lumad children in communities rarely reached by government services. The school was threatened to be burned down by paramilitary groups in 2015, as reported by Rappler.

"The Lumad are constantly in danger of being displaced by military forces and we know the it is our tax dollars that help push out indigenous communities from their ancestral land." secretary general of the political organization Anakbayan Long Beach Johnny Rodriguez, said. "We hope that students will hear the stories of the Lumad and be moved to support the struggle for land and culture."

"To Mindanao with Love" will highlight opportunities for students to get involved and even join an international delegation to the Philippines, according to Rodriguez.

Among the various leaders at the event is secretary general of the Coalition of Indigenous Peoples in the Philippines, Argee "Pya" Macliing Malayo. Malayo advocates to fulfill the aspirations of the indigenous people.

Francis Laminero is the executive director of the organization "Initiatives for Peace in Mindanao" and plans on speaking at the program. Laminero's organization serves as a voice for peace based on human rights across the Philippine archipelago, according to their website.

"To Mindanao with Love" will be held Saturday from 5-7 p.m. in Lecture Hall 150.

GOT AN **OPINION?** Let us know! opedd49er@gmail.com

CSULB student body: care to recycle

Too many students carelessly throw away cans and bottles despite available recycling bins.

By Emily Senninger
Contributing Writer

Cal State Long Beach is made up of a diverse and intelligent student body, with many driven young people who will surely go on to make incredible impacts in the world. Notable alumni consist of professional athletes, influential actors and the mayor of Long Beach. It comes as a surprise, then, when so many students fail to make use of the many recycle bins available to them on campus.

Is the general population at CSULB lacking in environmental knowledge, or do they simply not care?

Bottle and can receptacles are located all around the 324-acre campus and inside most buildings. Within the quad between Liberal Arts 4 and LA-3 alone, there are four recycling bins. No matter the direction a student is walking, one bin will be in their general direction.

Disappointingly, many students and faculty still practice complete disregard and their bottles and cans are carelessly thrown into traditional waste bins, especially in the classroom.

CSULB focuses extensively on sustainability efforts, with a larger goal of becoming a zero waste campus. There are programs in place for recycling cans and bottles, cardboard, batteries, paper, electronics, office supplies, furniture, food waste, metal, wood and more. Associated Students Inc. has a recycling center conveniently located on campus for community members to donate recyclable materials for California Redemption Value.

Not that recycling doesn't always come from carelessness; it often comes from lack of education on the issue. However, with the number of available recycling outlets on campus, too many CSULB attendees are practicing carelessness.

Given the accessibility ASI and CSULB provide, there is no excuse to not move the extra five feet to put your bottle in the recycling bin. Simple changes in a single person's lifestyle can make an incredible impact on the health of the environment and provide a positive place for future generations to prosper and succeed.

Landfills are filling up. The average person generates 4.3 pounds of waste each day, according to the Center for Sustainability & Commerce at Duke University.

There are approximately 7.4 billion people on earth and 37,430 students at CSULB, meaning our student body has the potential to create over 800,000 pounds of waste in a given week. Recycling helps reduce the amount of waste put into landfills and limits the number of landfills needed.

Care about the footprint you leave behind and care to recycle, CSULB.

Reasons to recycle

-Recycling helps to reduce the harmful chemicals produced by waste.

-It reduces the need for raw materials, such as paper, and therefore preserves the rainforests and wildlife habitats.

-Recycling reduces the amount of energy used by decreasing the production of raw materials. Natural resources are preserved for future generations.

-It saves room! Eventually, landfills do fill up. There is not unlimited space for mass amounts of waste.

-Plastic bottles, one of the most wasted products at Cal State Long Beach, can be used to produce clothing, grocery bags, containers, carpet and much more.

Testing won't fix crumbling schools

Imagine working in a place where rats skitter across the floor. Where mold climbs the walls like ivy, and floors buckle, soaked and rotted from frequent exposure to rain and snow.

If you're like most adults, such things are probably difficult to imagine. Yet schools in poor areas often must deal with problems like these.

Proponents of high-stakes testing have increasingly leaned on one particular argument to shut down opposition. They say testing is needed to achieve equality between whiter, wealthier students and nonwhite, poorer ones.

> "We need a full conversation on how glaring inequalities in school conditions violate students' rights, regardless of whether those conditions are reflected in their test scores."

But we don't need standardized tests to know that kids in school shouldn't be sitting next to rats.

In privileged communities, students attend beautiful schools with diverse curricular offerings, up-to-date materials and technology, nurses, counselors, librarians and support staff to bolster the work of classroom teachers. In low-income communities and many communities of color, few of these amenities exist. This has long been the case.

That's why, well before high-stakes testing became an issue, parents and students in segregated, neglected schools began sounding the alarm over these deplorable conditions. For decades, they've organized, walked out, sat in and sued over untenable teaching and learning conditions.

Yet pro-privatization advocates ignore these savage inequalities and focus on test scores. We need a full conversation on how glaring inequalities in school conditions violate students' rights, regardless of whether those conditions are reflected in their test scores. We need to reengage our leaders in a serious conversation about fixing this problem.

Some leaders are taking up the cause. I recently heard from two leaders of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, Reps. Keith Ellison, D-Minn., and Mark Pocan, D-Wis., who have addressed systemic inequity in a caucus document called the People's Budget.

Past efforts to address these problems, Ellison noted, have been stymied by Republicans. "You may recall, when we did … the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, there was a proposal to do major investment in schools. And in order to get a deal, we needed a few Senate Republicans to come on over. They said, 'Cut that out, and do tax cuts (for the wealthy).'"

Pocan added that the People's Budget calls for investing in universally available, quality education from preschool through college, from which students could graduate without debt.

These and other proposals, they said, could be paid for by levying a financial transactions tax, cracking down on corporate leaders gaming the system and hiding money overseas, and adding new tax brackets for the very wealthy to ensure they pay their fair share.

As elected officials vie for our votes this year, we should keep such proposals in mind. While the People's Budget probably won't be passed intact, progressive legislators plan to introduce individual parts of it throughout the session. Let's push them to prioritize education and infrastructure spending.

Further, let's publicize who is pushing to fix glaring inequity in education because it's the right thing to do and who is claiming that they need to see test scores before they do anything at all.

– Sabrina Joy Stevens, TNS

Daily 49er

Editorial Office
Phone (562) 985-8000
Fax (562) 985-7994

1250 Bellflower Blvd., LA4-201
Long Beach, CA
90840-4601

General Manager
Beverly Munson
(562) 985-5736

Design Adviser **Gary Metzker**
Content Adviser **Barbara Kingsley-Wilson**

Business Office
Phone (562) 985-8001
Fax (562) 985-1740

1250 Bellflower Blvd., LA4-203A
Long Beach, CA
90840-4601

Greg Diaz
Editor-in-Chief
eicd49er@gmail.com
(562) 985-7998

Madison D'Ornellas
Managing Editor
managingd49er@gmail.com

News Editor **Ariana Sawyer**
cityd49er@gmail.com

Arts and Life Editor **Miranda Andrade-Ceja**
artsnlifed49er@gmail.com

Sports Editor **Josh Barajas**
sportsd49er@gmail.com

Opinions Editor **Micayla Vermeeren**
opedd49er@gmail.com

Photo Editor **Trang Le**
Design Editor **Emilio Aldea**
Copy Editor **Liam Brown**
Social Media Editor **Yasmin Cortez**
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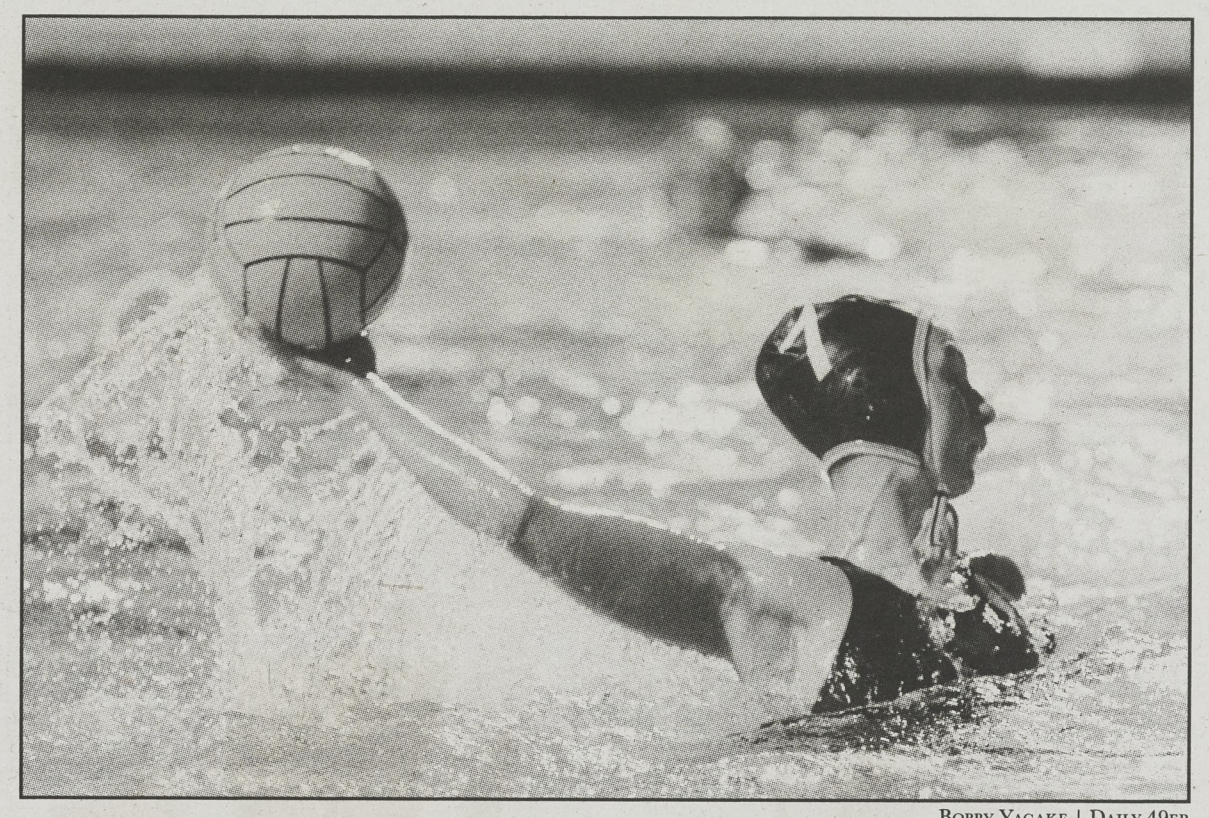
Letters Policy: All letters and e-mail must bear the phone number of the writer and must be no more than 300 words. The Daily 49er reserves the right to edit letters for publication in regard to space.

WOMEN'S WATER POLO

49ers swimming after history

The women's water polo team could set a new school record in conference play by winning out the season.

By Josh Barajas
Sports Editor



Bobby Yagake | Daily 49er

Senior attack Jessica Brooks pulls back to take a shot in LBSU's 18-4 win over Pomona-Pitzer on April 9 at the Ken Lindgren Aquatics Center.

The Long Beach State women's water polo team could go undefeated in conference play for the first time in school history with a pair of wins this weekend.

The 49ers (16-9, 3-0) face UC Irvine (17-10, 2-2) on the road Thursday and UC Santa Barbara (15-11, 3-1) at home to close out the regular season on Saturday. Two wins will put LBSU at 5-0 and give it the No. 1 seed going into the Big West Tournament on April 29 in Santa Barbara.

"Our whole team is pretty stoked on the idea [of going undefeated]," senior goalie Alexis Butler said. "Right now being 3-0 is already a big deal, so the next two games are really important for us."

LBSU can get to five wins for the first time since 2005 when the 49ers went 8-4 in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation. Since making the move to the Big West in 2009, LBSU has recorded a winning season in the conference just once, going 4-3 in 2013.

However, since the 49ers started competing in 1998 they've failed to go undefeated a single season. They're best performance came in 2003, when they went 8-2 in the MPSF.

Sophomore utility Virginia Smith, LBSU's leading scorer with 41 goals, said she will keep the pressure off the next two matches by letting go of the fact that they can be perfect in conference play.

"[Our biggest concern] is just playing like we've been playing all season," Smith said. "Just maintaining the momentum."

Butler, LBSU's leading goalie with 552 minutes played and 126 saves, echoed her teammates' idea of staying grounded and maintaining the same style of play the 49ers have kept all season.

"I really hope we just stick to our game and don't try and rush or change it to keep the score close or shut them out," Butler said. "I'm hoping that we stay together and keep each other calm to get what we want in the end."

The 49ers' first opponents are the preseason favorite Anteaters, who own a 19-12 all-time record and a six-game winning streak against LBSU. Sophomore utility Mary Brooks leads UCI with 47 goals and goalies Annika Nelson and Jenna Phreaner have their team allowing an average of 6.07 goals per game.

LBSU will then host the Gauchos in the last home game of the year. UCSB is sitting in second place, one game behind the 49ers with a 3-1 record in the conference. Senior center Lauren Martin, junior utility Taylor Shore and senior attacker Bryn Hudson lead the Gaucho attack to an average of 9.65 goals per game with 43, 41 and 37 goals, respectively. However, UCSB's defense averages 8.12 goals against.

After starting the season 2-6, the 49ers rebounded by dropping just three games in the next 17 games. LBSU is averaging 9.84 goals per game while allowing an average of just 6.80.

"[Our performance has been] a bit of a surprise," Smith said. "We had a slow start, but I also expected this from this team. [My teammates] were amazing when we played together [in the offseason], [they're] an awesome team."

The resurrection came as a shock to some, but Butler said she knew from the start the 49ers would be at this level.

"I thought this team had a lot of potential coming in," Butler said. "It's the first year we're actually set on trying to go all out. So, no, I'm not surprised at all. I'm kind of excited to see what we can pull off in the next two games."

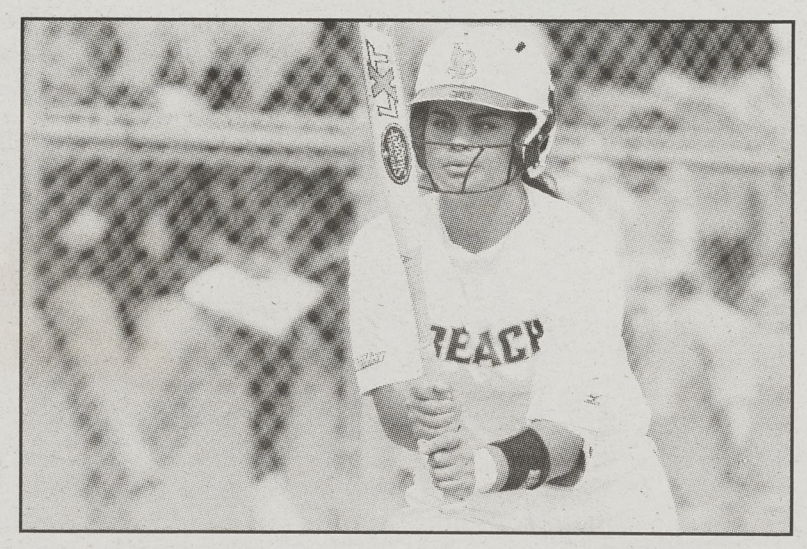
LBSU heads to Irvine for a match against the Anteaters Thursday at 7 p.m. before closing the regular season at the Ken Lindgren Aquatics Center on Saturday against UC Santa Barbara at noon.

SPORTS PREVIEWS

Softball

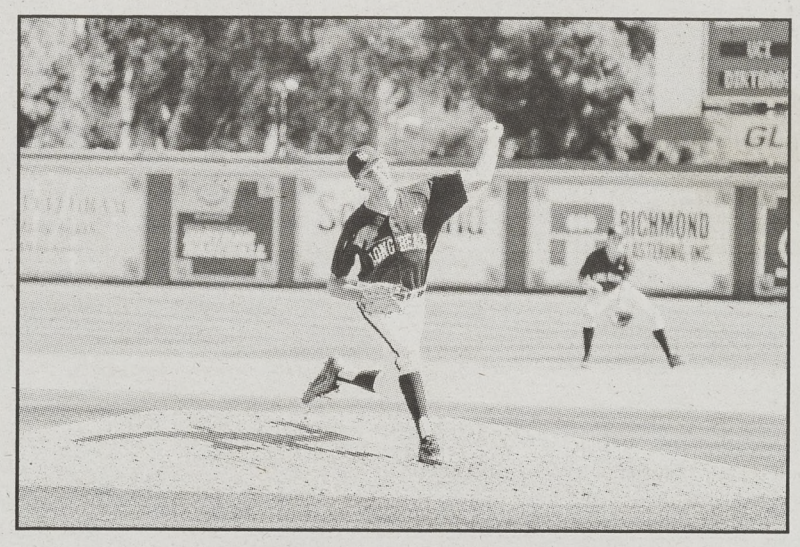
Who: UC Santa Barbara
(21-23, 4-5)
When: Saturday at 1 and 3 p.m., Sunday at 1 p.m.
Where: Campus Diamond, Santa Barbara

Need to know: Since Long Beach State softball head coach Kim Sowder took over in 2007, the 49ers have taken 16 of their 24 games against the Gauchos.
After the Gauchos pitching held Cal Poly to one run in a three game series to start conference play, UCSB has a 5.86 ERA in the last seven games. Overall, UCSB has dropped six out of its last seven games.
At the plate, junior outfielder Kristen Clark leads the Gauchos with a .430 batting average, the third-best in the Big West.
The 49ers will most likely face the Gauchos senior pitcher Ashley Ludlow, who has a team best 2.81 ERA.



After getting swept at home by Cal Poly this weekend, the LBSU softball team looks to bounce back with a series win at UC Santa Barbara.

William Martin | Daily 49er



The Dirtbags will try and get back in the winner's column against UC Riverside after dropping back-to-back games this week.

William Martin | Daily 49er

Baseball

Who: UC Riverside
(15-19, 3-3)
When: Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m., Sunday at 1 p.m.
Where: Riverside Sports Complex, Riverside

Need to know: Long Beach State (21-14, 5-4) continues its four-game road swing against UC Riverside. The Dirtbags lead the all-time series 57-32-1 and last season LBSU won the series 2-1 at Blair Field on April 17-19, 2015.
UCR has won two straight after beating Utah and UC San Diego. Junior outfielder Vince Fernandez leads the team in batting with a .351 average. Junior Austin Sodders is Riverside's top pitcher, boasting a 3-3 record with a 2.89 ERA in eight starts.
UCR is 7-9 at home and the Dirtbags will look to improve their 7-6 record on the road.

MEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Bearing the Bruins, again

The 49ers face UCLA for a third time this season as they take on the Bruins in the MPSF tournament semifinals.

By Kayce Contatore
Staff Writer

Ben Hammerton | Daily 49er
LBSU head coach Alan Knipe talks to his team during a timeout in the 49ers' 3-0 win over UC Santa Barbara on March 23 inside the Walter Pyramid.

The No. 3 seeded Long Beach State men's volleyball team looks for its first win against No. 2 UCLA this season when they face off in the semifinal round of the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Tournament Thursday in Provo, Utah.

The 49ers have fallen to UCLA in both matches this season, suffering their only straight set loss of the year to the Bruins on March 26 inside the Walter Pyramid. In the last meeting between the two teams, the Bruins held the 49ers to .250 hitting percentage.

"We feel like there are some things we've left on the table the last couple of times we played them," LBSU head coach Alan Knipe said.

Knipe called UCLA a consistent team that has played well all year long and that the 49ers need to play a stronger and more consistent round of volleyball for a longer period of time to advance to the championship game.

The Bruins defeated the seventh seeded Hawaii in the quarterfinal match 3-1 at Pauley Pavilion to earn the trip to Utah for the semifinals. This is the first trip for UCLA to the semifinals since 2012, where they ultimately lost to BYU.

Over the length of the season, UCLA setters Micah Ma'a and Hagen Smith led the Bruin offense to a .311 hitting percentage. Smith averages 5.87 assists per set while Ma'a averages 5.99, totalling 56 service aces with at least one ace in the last 12 of 13 matches played.

Freshman setter Josh Tuaniga said that UCLA runs a great tempo when on offense and that it is a challenge on defense to match up with how well they play.

"[We need to] stay mentally into the game," Tuaniga said. "[And] know that we can do some pretty good things as well and we just have to use our weapons."

Tuaniga tops the MPSF in assists per set with 11.13 and has directed the 49er offense to fourth in the country with a .329 hitting percentage.

Freshman outside hitter T.J. DeFalco has been the kill leader for the 49ers, totaling 426 kills and averaging 4.28 kills per set. DeFalco, who earned MPSF freshman of the year last week, said that although UCLA is a strong team it is always fun getting to play against the Bruins.

"I'm excited to play them, I'm always excited to play them," DeFalco said. "We're on the smaller end of the height chart in the teams so we just need to play more defense."

Heading into the final four for the tournament, Knipe said that one of the themes at practice this season is to stay focused on their side of the court rather than their opponents.

"This team does a really good job of not just physically preparing for a match but preparing for a match as far as their volleyball IQ," Knipe said. "They do a really good job of coming in eager to get after it and learn the game plan."

The 49ers will matchup against UCLA for the third time this season in the MPSF semifinal match Thursday at 4 p.m.

MPSF Men's Volleyball Tournament